



MANITOBA  
**FIRST NATIONS**  
EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE



# TEACH FOR **FIRST NATIONS**



CHIEF SAM COOK MAHMUWEE EDUCATION CENTRE



# VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Inc. is guided by the following vision and mission statements:

## VISION

Support First Nations to develop and implement a comprehensive holistic educational system inclusive of First Nations languages, world views, values, beliefs, and traditions with exemplary academic standards, under First Nation jurisdiction.

## MISSION

To help First Nations improve education for all learners to achieve: ***mino-pimatisiwin.***

Cree, Ojibwe, Ojibwe-Cree

To help First Nations improve education for all learners to achieve: ***honso aynai.***

Dene

To help First Nations improve education for all learners to achieve: ***tokadakiya wichoni washte.***

Dakota

# WELCOME



On behalf of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) Board of Directors, I am pleased to present you with this Chief Sam Cook Mahmuwee Education Centre (CSCMEC) information package. I extend my appreciation to everyone involved in gathering and providing information to make this project possible.

Teaching at Chief Sam Cook Mahmuwee Education Centre will provide you with a unique and valuable career, as well as many new life opportunities. The Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Center, as a second and third level provider for CSCMEC, is excited to work with you as you begin a new journey in your teaching career.

Ekosani,

Chief Clarence Easter  
Chemawawin Cree Nation  
Chairperson | Board of Directors



On behalf of the MFNERC and the Tataskweyak Education Authority, an administrative body of the Tataskweyak Cree Nation's Band Operated School, we are excited to share this information package with teachers who are interested in joining the Tataskweyak Education Authority to work with First Nations students in Manitoba.

This information package aims to connect motivated and knowledgeable teachers to our independent school system. This particular package highlights the many benefits of working with the community of Tataskweyak Cree Nation and the opportunities available at Chief Sam Cook Mahmuwee Education Centre.

We hope to hear from you soon, and look forward to answering any questions you have about the exciting career opportunities available.

Ekosani,

Charles Cochrane  
Ebb and Flow First Nation  
Executive Director | Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre

# TESTIMONIALS

"It's a small community, where everybody knows and helps everybody. It's great when you have more time with students inside and outside the classroom."

- Teacher at Chief Sam Cook

"There's more to do here than you think, whether it's ice fishing, ice fishing derbies, snowshoeing, hockey tournaments in the community, plenty of cultural events. The school organizes activities like the Terry Fox run, lots of events (like Aboriginal Awareness Day). I even became better at volleyball through practice." - Brian

"I had the opportunity to learn about Indigenous culture. It's different from what the media tells you." - Teacher at Chief Sam Cook

"I learned how to love and appreciate wildlife. It's a chance to become more in tune with nature, and I'm a better person for it."

- Teacher at Chief Sam Cook

"One time, I got off the plane in Toronto and instantly said, 'Holy moly,' the air is so dirty here compared to Tataskweyak." - Vivian



*“Teaching at Tataskweyak has been a great opportunity to explore First Nations culture.”*

# SURROUNDING LAND

## Where is Tataskweyak Cree Nation?

Tataskweyak Cree Nation is located in the community of Split Lake, Manitoba, 169 kilometers west of Gillam, Manitoba and 143 kilometers northeast of Thompson, Manitoba.

On a day-to-day basis, many companies like Gardewine North Transportation, Arctic Beverages, and Old Dutch provide the community with freight and goods. There are no shortage of ways to access Tataskweyak.

## Service Centres

Tataskweyak Cree Nation is 143km northeast of Thompson. That’s roughly a 2-hour drive on Hwy 280. Thompson, MB is known as the “Hub of the North” and for good reason. From the wilderness to its waterfalls, this is the perfect Northern city for an adventure. It has all the necessary services, such as a mall, a movie theatre, a library, a Walmart, and many more.





## Vision

Our vision is to empower today's youth for a meaningful and contributing life for the betterment of self and the community of Split Lake.

## Mission Statement

Tataskweyak Education Authority provides foundations through cultural experiences in a safe, holistic environment to meet the needs of our learners in achieving chosen endeavors and becoming healthy and contributing citizens in a global environment.

## Demographics

Students: 800+  
Staff: 150+/-  
Classroom Teachers: 40

## Grades

K4 - K5 to Grade 12

## School Time

8:30AM - 4:30PM (for teachers)  
9:00AM - 3:30PM (for students)

## Community Population

Registered - 3302  
On-Reserve - 2269

## Language

Cree

## Council

Tataskweyak Cree Nation  
Chief and Council

## Treaty

1908 Treaty 5 Adhesion

## Temperature Range

Average Summer: 16 °C  
Average Winter: - 17 °C  
(windchill can make it feel -30°C)  
Having appropriate outdoor winter clothing is necessary.

# CHIEF SAM COOK MAHMUWEE SCHOOL

*"The people are super-duper friendly and helpful here!"*



# SCHOOL SPECIALTY AREAS

## Special Classes Offered

Chief Sam Cook School offers a variety of specialty classes including land-based learning classes from grades 1 – 12 to teach students how to live off the land and hunt for food, a Cree-language learning class, and most recently, they have added a music class to teach students how to play numerous instruments.

## Events

Tataskweyak hosts youth conferences to keep kids on the right path (Living the Good Life). They also take Grade 8 students to Churchill to hunt migratory birds, community hunts, and for fishing events. There's a Winter Festival, Spring Festival, Ice Fishing Derby, and the school organizes lots of runs, such as the Terry Fox Run and an Aboriginal Awareness Day Run.

## Competitions

The school competes in various sports such as volleyball, basketball, hockey, and more with surrounding communities. Land-based competitions also take place within the community. The school is even considering participating in the MFNERC Science Fair.

*"It's so rewarding to see my students graduate and move onto post-secondary education."*





# FACILITIES

## Student Facilities

Chief Sam Cook School has numerous classrooms, a library, computer lab, science lab, gym, workout area, Cree language room, cooking room, and industrial arts room. Guidance and counselling are also available to students.

## Teacher Facilities

Teachers have a staff lounge, where they can relax and socialize with other teachers. Teachers also have access to all the student facilities.

## Renovations and Upgrades

In April 2020, the roof of Chief Sam Cook school collapsed due to heavy snow fall. Tataskweyak has restored the roof in the school and surrounding areas affected since the incident has occurred. Fiber optics may be coming to the community. Tataskweyak is currently negotiating to have two new schools built, one would be for nursery to grade 6 and then the other school would be for grades 7 to 12.

## WiFi/ Cellular Service

The community has 4G LTE cell service with free access to WiFi at the school.

*“For new teaching graduates, it’s a very good opportunity to start a career in education.”*

# CHIEF SAM COOK MAHMUWEE EDUCATION CENTRE "LΔ" P^P-ΔLDBΓ P^CΛε

## TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

### What is Chief Sam Cook looking for in a teacher?

Interested teachers must be eligible to teach in Manitoba and have obtained Manitoban certification so the students can be accredited. Beyond that, we hope our teachers are open-minded, and willing to participate in community events with residents and students in and outside of school hours.

### Average Day

#### 8:30am

Start the day around 8:30am

#### 9:00am

Meet the students at 9:00am to teach subjects such as math, science, and social studies

#### 12:00pm

Teachers go home or stay at school for lunch

#### 3:30-4:30

The day ends around 3:30pm – 4:30pm  
The younger children get off around 3:30pm

- Up until and including grade 8, each teacher is responsible to teach multiple subjects
- From grade 9 and up, teachers are responsible for one subject (on a five (5) block system)

### Other Responsibilities

Teachers are expected to take part in extracurricular activities and help tutor students if needed. Volunteering is always welcomed. For example, one of our new teachers who loves cooking helps prepare meals for funerals.

*"It's hard not to love our children. They're all friendly and respectful, and each of them have their own story."*



## Teacherage Rentals

Teacherages are available for rent. They are regularly maintained to ensure they stay in good shape.

## Amenities

Teachers have access to a washer, dryer, bathroom, furniture, kitchen, heating, hot water, stove, oven, and refrigerator. Tenants are responsible to bring their own television, microwave, kitchen utensils, toiletries, and bedding.

## Rent

Rent ranges from \$300 – \$675

## Distance from the School

Accommodations are very close to the school, residing between 100m and 1km away.

## Pet Friendly

Yes


## WiFi/Cellular Service

4G LTE is accessible from the teacherages. WiFi is not offered in the teacherages at this time.

*"I love everything here: the teaching, my students, my friends, the whole community, all the activities, how people treat me nicely. Literally everything! I can't complain about anything!"*

# TEACHER ACCOMMODATIONS





*“At Tataskweyak, you have the opportunity to be more creative in how you educate the students, with teaching methods like land-based learning.”*

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## Highlights

Through Hwy 280, you have year-round access to Tataskweyak Cree Nation. One of the advantages of teaching at Chief Sam Cook and living in the community is having close access to Thompson, Manitoba and all the amenities it provides. Whatever you can't find at Tataskweyak, you'll surely find it in Thompson.

From its beauty to the hunting, the land near Tataskweyak has so much to offer. This is truly a chance to reconnect with nature and everything it provides. There is so much opportunity for fishing (northern pike, pickerel, etc.) and hunting (moose, caribou, etc.). As you can tell from the pictures, the community is surrounded by a lake, so you'll also have plenty of time to snow-shoe, cross country ski, and ice fish during the winter season.

If you're keen to explore the area, Hwy 280 gives you access to everything you need. This truly is a beautiful place with great land, where you can hike, sightsee, animal watch, practice photography, and much more.

There are a lot of Hydro development projects in the area, which teachers often bring students to, so they can see generating stations. Chief Sam Cook provides its students with these opportunities to implement career awareness, by showing students the requirements needed to work with Manitoba Hydro.

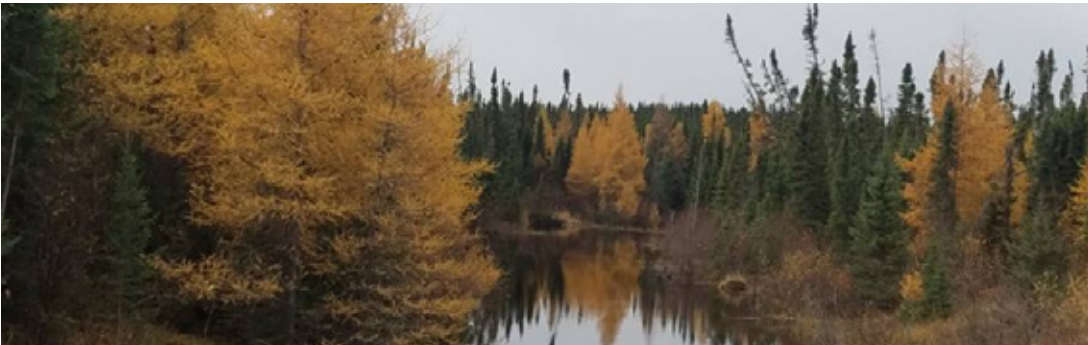
## Community Life

The people of Tataskweyak are friendly and welcoming. Teachers are always welcomed into the community. Members of the community often partake in nature activities: hiking, running, fishing, and hunting (because of the majestic land in the surrounding area).

When venturing outside of the community, our people often visit Thompson, where you can find a mall, movie theatre, library, Walmart, etc. Members of our community also visit Gillam, Fox Lake, and in the winter (with help of the winter road) people go to York Factory and War Lake First Nation.



# COMMUNITY LIFE AND GALLERY



## Services

Tataskweyak has a health centre, a grocery store, Morris Sisters Chester Fried Chicken, a gas station, a hotel, a workout area, a VLT building, a band hall where community events take place, and an arena with an ice rink. The dentist comes in every 2 – 4 weeks, and the optometrist comes in once a year. Safety officers and RCMP do regular visits from Thompson.



# COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

## **Band Office**

Phone: 204-342-2045

Fax: 204-342-2270

## **Education Authority**

Phone: 204-342-2148

Fax: 204-342-2240

## **Health Centre**

Phone: 204-342-2033

Fax: 204-342-2319

## **RCMP**

Phone: 204-677-6909

Fax: 204-677-6947

## **TCN Safety Officers**

Phone: 204-342-2234

## **School**

Phone: 204-342-2134

Fax: 204-342-2139

## **Fire Hall**

Phone: 204-342-2222





100-1200 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0T5

**Phone:** (204) 594-6507 | **Fax:** (204) 775-7457

**Toll Free:** (866) 319- 4857 | **Thompson Toll Free:** (877) 506-1568

**[www.mfnerc.org](http://www.mfnerc.org)**

## For Employment Opportunities Please Contact: Human Resources

Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Inc.

2-1100 Waverley Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 3X9

**Email:** [hr@mfnerc.com](mailto:hr@mfnerc.com) | **Fax:** 204.942.2490

[www.mfnerc.org/employment](http://www.mfnerc.org/employment)

or

### Tataskweyak Education Authority

**Email:** [tataskweyakeducationauthority@gmail.com](mailto:tataskweyakeducationauthority@gmail.com)

and [educationdirector@tataskweyak.com](mailto:educationdirector@tataskweyak.com).

**Office:** 204-342-2148 | **Fax:** 204-342-2240

### For More Information Visit:

[www.teachforfirstnations.com](http://www.teachforfirstnations.com)

Established by  
**Manitoba**  
**First Nations Education**  
Resource Centre Inc.

